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2 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Reporting on North Vietnamese Casualties

1. In view of the recent injunction against publishing casualty estimates in reports receiving wide distribution, I call the following to your attention.

2. DIA has produced the first of a series of monthly reports entitled "Estimate of North Vietnam Casualties Derived from Photographic Bomb Damage Assessment." This report presently exists in a working copy to be distributed monthly in 70 copies among DOD, JCS, DIA, the military commands in the Pacific, ACSI, Navy, Air Force, CIA, NPIC, State, and NSA. Publication is scheduled within a few days.

3. The report will present essentially two estimates: (a) estimated casualties (civilian and military) for JCS targets; (b) estimated casualties (civilian only) for non-JCS targets. The report will not present estimates of casualties from armed reconnaissance. The DIA estimates will be presented in a range. Our experience has led us to estimate casualties generally four times higher than the minimum end or the lower end of the minimum range.

4. In view of last week's intensive work on getting an official Washington estimate of total casualties, this series may present numerous problems arising from the surfacing of two sets of numbers and the recent injunction against distributing casualty estimates.

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Chief, Trade and Services Division

Distribution:

Orig. & 2 - D/ORR  
1 - Ch/E  
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